

MTSA Regulations found at 33 CFR Subchapter H
Part 104—Vessels.

#07-03 May 13, 2004---POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL FAQ

Q. Is use of the Alternative Security Program (ASP) permitted for vessels subject to ISPS or SOLAS?

Ans. Vessels subject to SOLAS subscribing to an ASP must submit a Vessel Security Plan to the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Center (MSC) for review and approval in accordance with one of two options:

Option one: An ASP sponsor organization may choose to submit a Vessel Security Plan to the MSC for review and approval. Once this plan is approved, the sponsor organization may provide this plan to its members. The members may then use this approved plan as a template for developing their own plans, and individualizing pages that list the vessel particulars, such as the Vessel Security Officer, official number, etc. Each vessel would then submit their own plan to the MSC for review and approval. The sponsor organization will provide additional details to their members on what must be submitted to the MSC.

Option two: An ASP sponsor organization may choose to submit an international addendum to Commandant (G-MP) for review and approval. An international addendum will include certain requirements of ISPS that are not addressed in the ASP, and any specific sections of the ASP that must be developed by the vessel operator, such as a vessel-specific security assessment report and an on-scene survey. This approved addendum will be added to vessel-specific material and submitted to the Marine Safety Center by a vessel operator and be considered a Vessel Security Plan. Vessel operators should contact their sponsor organization to find out exactly what must be submitted to the MSC to be considered a complete VSP submission. Upon MSC approval of the VSP, the vessel is eligible to receive an International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC). Subscribers to an ASP should contact their sponsor organization to determine if an international addendum has been submitted and/or approved before providing anything to the Marine Safety Center.

Vessels must be in full compliance with all applicable security measures included in their approved VSP. An uninspected vessel, operating only on domestic voyages, is not required to enact all security measures during certain voyages. However, these “variable” security measures must be clearly described in the approved VSP. In addition, the VSP must state the procedures the vessel will follow to re-establish security measures before the vessel returns to MTSA/ISPS operations.

NOTE For further guidance, a facility owner/operator should contact their local Captain of the Port (COTP/FMSC).